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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/845,502	04/30/2001	David B. Colasurdo	RSW9-2001-0081-US1	2095

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EXAMINER

BLAIR, DOUGLAS B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2142

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/02/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/845,502

Applicant(s)

COLASURDO ET AL.

Examiner

Douglas B. Blair

Art Unit

2142

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 December 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Claims 1-29 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1 and 16 have been amended.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments, see Remarks/Arguments, filed 12/2/2005, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-9 and 16-29 under 35 USC section 103 as being obvious from Lita in view of Dougliis have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,598,077 and U.S. Patent Application Publication Number 2002/0073211.

Specification

3. The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required: The specification does not define a computer readable media as claimed in claims 16-29.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 2142

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-9 and 16-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 6,598,077 to Primak et al. in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication Number 2002/0073211 to Lin et al.

6. As to claim 1, Primak teaches a method of maintaining session affinity in a server farm coupled to receive client requests, said server farm comprising multiple server groups, each server group comprising multiple clone servers, said method comprising the steps of: associating a collection of related client requests with a unique session identification code (col. 8, lines 15-51); responsive to receipt of a client request, determining to which of said server groups said client request can be dispatched (col. 8, lines 15-51); responsive to said receipt of client request which comprises a session identification code, determining if said list associated with said received session identification code includes a server identification code that matches a server identification code of a server in said determined server group (col. 8, lines 15-51); and if a match is detected dispatching said client request of said matched server (col. 8, lines 15-51); however Primak does not explicitly teach associating with said collection of requests sharing a session identification code a list of every server in said server farm that has serviced a request in said collection.

Lin teaches associating with a collection of requests sharing a session identification code a list of every server in a server farm that has serviced request in said collection (paragraphs 27-29).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the Computer Networking art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Primak regarding tracking a session ID in a clustered server environment with the teachings of Lin regarding maintaining a list of every server that a client may have visited over the course of a session because should communication be disrupted such information is useful in reestablishing the communication (Lin, paragraph 26).

7. As to claim 2, Primak teaches a method comprising, upon routing of a client request in a session to a server that has not previously serviced a client request in said session, adding a unique server identification code corresponding to said server to a list of server identification codes associated with said session, without deleting any other server identification codes in said list (col. 8, lines 15-51).

8. As to claim 3, Primak teaches a method comprising sending said session identification code and said unique server identification code, respectively, to a client machine that issued said request so that said client machine can include said session identification code and said unique server identification code as part of future requests it issues to said server farm (col. 8, lines 15-51).

9. As to claim 4, Primak teaches a method wherein said list of server identification codes forms part of said session identification code (col. 8, lines 15-51).

10. As to claim 5, Primak teaches a method wherein said list of server identification codes is appended to said session identification code (col. 8, lines 29-37).

11. As to claim 6, the Primak-Lin combination makes claim 5 obvious however neither explicitly teach a method wherein said session identification code is a jsessionid in accordance with the Java Servlet 2.2 specification. Primak teaches the use of Java (col. 1, lines 25-38).

Art Unit: 2142

Official notice is taken that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use a sessionid definition because Java libraries were well known and publicly available to java developers as java.sun.com at the time of the applicant's invention.

12. As to claim 7, Primak teaches a method wherein said session identification code forms part of a cookie associated with said session (col. 3, lines 6-15).

13. As to claim 8, Primak teaches a method of claim 7 wherein said cookie forms part of said client request (col. 3, lines 6-15).

14. As to claim 9, Primak teaches a method wherein said session identification code forms part of a Uniform Resource Identifier (URI) that forms part of said client request (col. 8, lines 15-51).

15. As to claim 10, Lin teaches a method wherein step (4) comprises the steps of: parsing said list in a manner so as to find matching server identification codes in the temporal order in which they were added to said list; and selecting the first matching server identification code detected (paragraph 29).

16. As to claim 11, Lin teaches a method wherein step (4) comprises the steps of: searching said list in a predetermined order for matching server identification code, said predetermined order designed to encounter server identification codes in the temporal order in which they were added to said list; upon encountering a server identification code, determining if it matches a server identification code in said server group; if a match is not detected, repeating steps (4.1) and (4.2) (paragraphs 27-29).

17. As to claim 12, Lin teaches a method wherein step (3) comprises the steps of: if said client request does not comprise a session identification code; creating a session for client

Art Unit: 2142

requests received from the client issuing said client request; assigning a session identification code to said session; dispatching said client request to a particular server in said determined server group; appending the server identification code of said particular server to said session identification code; and communicating said session identification code with said server identification code to the client that issued said client request (paragraphs 27-29).

18. As to claim 13, Line teaches a method wherein step (3) further comprises the steps of: when a client request is received that pertains to a particular server group and said client request comprises a session identification code, but said session identification code does not have appended thereto a server identification code corresponding to a server in said particular server group; dispatching said client request to a server in said particular server group; appending said server identification code corresponding to said server to said session identification code; and communicating said session identification code, including said newly appended server identification code, to the client that issued said client request (paragraphs 27-29).

19. As to claim 14, Lin teaches a method wherein step (2) further comprises the steps of: if a client request comprises a session identification code having appended thereto a server identification code corresponding to a particular server in said determined server group, but said particular server is unavailable to service said client request; dispatching said client request to a different server in said determined server group; appending a server identification code corresponding to said different server to said session identification code; and communicating said session identification code, including said newly appended server identification code, to the client that issued said client request (paragraphs 27-29).

Art Unit: 2142

20. As to claim 15, Lin teaches a method wherein step (3) further comprises the steps of: if a client request comprises a session identification code having appended thereto a server identification code corresponding to a particular server in said determined server group, but said particular server is unavailable to service said client request; dispatching said client request to a different server in said determined server group; appending a server identification code corresponding to said different server to said session identification code; and communicating said session identification code, including said newly appended server identification code, to the client that issued said client request (paragraphs 27-29).

21. As to claims 16-29 they feature the same limitations as claims 1-15 and are therefore rejected for the same reasons as claims 1-15.

Conclusion

22. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

23. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

Art Unit: 2142

however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

24. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Douglas B. Blair whose telephone number is (571) 272-3893.

The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Caldwell can be reached on (571) 272-3868. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Douglas Blair

DBB



ANDREW CALDWELL
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER